REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 48 and 52-54 currently appear in this application. The Office Action of November 14, 2005, has been carefully studied. These claims define novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103 of 35 U.S.C., and therefore should be allowed. Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration, entry of the present amendment, and formal allowance of the claims.

Election/Restrictions

The Examiner has required restriction to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. 121:

Group I, claims 1, 47, 51, drawn to α-isomaltosylglucosaccharide forming enzyme from *B. globisporus*C9 having the characteristics listed in claim 1;

Group II, claims 8-11, drawn to a method of producing an α-isomaltosylglucosaccharide forming enzyme;

Group III, claims 12-15, drawn to a method of producing an α-isomaltosylglucosaccharide forming enzyme;

Group IV, claim 46, drawn to a biologically pure culture containing an α-isomaltosylglucosaccharide forming enzyme;

Group V, claims 48, 50 and 51, drawn to an α-isomaltosylglucosaccharide forming enzyme from *Arthrobacter globiformis* A19 having the characteristics listed in claim 48;

Group VI, claim 52, drawn to an α-isomaltosylglucosaccharide forming enzyme from *B. globisporus* C11 having the characteristics listed in claim 52; and

Group VII, claim 53, drawn to an α-isomaltosylglucosaccharide forming enzyme from *B. globisporus* N75 having the characteristics listed in claim 53.

Applicant hereby elects, with traverse, Group VII, comprising claim 53, drawn to an α-isomaltosylglucosaccharide forming enzyme from *B. globisporus* N75.

Claim 54 has been submitted as a new generic claim covering claims in Groups I, V, VI and VII, namely, claims 1, 47, 48, and 50-53.

As recited in claims 1, 48, 52 and 53, the claimed enzymes have the same enzymatic activity as a common characteristic features, *i.e.*, forming a saccharide having a glucose polymerization degree of at least three and having both the α-1,6 glucosidic linkage as a linkage at the non-reducing end and the α-1,4 glucosidic linkage other than the linkage at the non-reducing end, by catalyzing the α-glucosyl transfer from a saccharide having a glucose polymerization degree of at least two and having the α-glucosidic linkage as a linkage at the non-reducing end.

Moreover, the enzymes from *B. globisporus* C9 and C11 have a partial amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, as shown in Experiment 5-1, particularly at page 71, second full paragraph, and Experiment 8-1, particularly page 83, second full paragraph. The enzyme from *B. globisporus* N75 has a partial amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:11, as described in the specification as filed at Experiment 12-1, particularly at page 99, second full paragraph. The enzyme from *Arthrobacter globiformis* A19 has a partial amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:18, as recited at Experiment 16-1, particularly at page 114, second full paragraph.

Newly submitted claim 54 recites these common features of the claimed enzyme. In view of this, it is respectfully submitted that examining all of the inventions of Groups I, V, VI and VII in a single application does not present the Examiner with an undue burden, even if they are patentably distinct. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully solicited.

Sequence Compliance

The Examiner notes that new SEQ ID Nos have been introduced.

It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the specification were erroneous. The present amendment corrects these errors. It is believed that the sequence listing is now correct and comply with the sequences originally provided in the specification.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for examination, and prompt and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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